




NOS'S CONTRIBUTION

to NOAA's Role in Executing the U.S. Ocean Action Plan

N DECEMBER 17, 2005, President Bush submitted the "U.S. Ocean Action Plan" to Congress in response to the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy report *An Ocean Blueprint for the 21st Century*. The President also established, by Executive Order, a Cabinet-level Committee on Ocean Policy to advise the President on ocean-related policies and to improve interagency coordination on ocean-related matters. The Committee, chaired by the Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality, will develop an agency work plan for the next 18 months to address additional Commission recommendations on ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes issues. The work plan could include measures that address governance principles, fill gaps in legislative authorities, and streamline unnecessary overlapping authorities. Where appropriate, the Committee will work with the states, tribes, local officials, and others.

NOAA's Ocean Service will play an important role in many of the activities outlined in the U.S. Ocean Action Plan. Some of the elements of the Plan that NOS expects to be involved in are outlined below:

- *Establish new interagency committee on ocean science and resource management integration*
- *Establish new interagency working group on ocean resource management*
- *Establish joint subcommittee on ocean science and technology*
- *Build a global earth observation network, including integrated ocean observation*
- *Seek passage of NOAA Organic Act establishing NOAA within Department of Commerce*
- *Promote coral reef and deep coral conservation and education*
- *Improve Marine Managed Areas*
- *Preserve the nation's maritime heritage*
- *Support regional collaborations on oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes policy in partnership with leadership of states, localities and tribes*
- *Implement new legislation on oceans and human health, harmful algal blooms, and hypoxia*
- *Promote lifelong ocean education*
- *Develop an ocean research priorities plan and implementation strategy*
- *Develop and deploy new state-of-the-art research and survey platforms*
- *Improve the Marine Transportation System*
- *Coordinate ocean and coastal mapping activities*
- *Advance international ocean policy and science, and share U.S. expertise abroad*
- *Reestablish interagency marine debris coordinating committee*
- *Promote coastal and watershed management*
- *Conserve and restore coastal habitat*
- *Prevent the spread of invasive species*
- *Reduce coastal water pollution*

